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# 2017 Winter Pride Alumni Community Newsletter

Illinois Wesleyan University

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# ILLINOIS WESLEYAN

## Pride Alumni Community

*Our mission is to connect LGBTQ+ alumni, friends and allies to Illinois Wesleyan University*

*Newsletter*

*Issue One, Winter 2017*

### 2017 Pride Summit

Are you looking for a reason to visit campus? Get out of the house this winter? Connect with other Pride Alumni Community (PAC) members? See what that proverbial "free lunch" thing is all about? Whatever your motivation, you are invited to our 2017 Pride Summit, Saturday, February 11. The theme of this year's summit is intersectionality. What is intersectionality, you ask? It is a critical theoretical perspective that seeks to complicate our understandings of individual identity, social categories of identity, and systems of oppression and privilege.

With roots in black feminist scholarship, the conference will explore intersectionality as it applies to gender, sexual identity, spiritual identity, as well as race and culture. With presentations from regional speakers, campus leaders and alumni, all are welcome. Programming includes an overview of intersectionality, small group discussions and activities, panel presentations and, of course, lunch! Register today at [www.titanpride.org/17pridesummit](http://www.titanpride.org/17pridesummit)

### From the PAC Chair

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We are excited to share with you this first edition of the PAC newsletter. 2016 was a terrific year for us: PAC committees are working on student engagement with the Pride Alliance (IWU student organization), as well as programming and membership; our annual Homecoming Pride Brunch was the largest and most successful to date, and we have been planning the 2017 Pride Summit, so mark your calendar for February 11 on campus. True to our mission, we are creating ways to connect students, alumni and friends with IWU - and one another. We look forward to seeing you this year, catching up, and celebrating IWU PRIDE.

- Jim Richter '93  
Co-chairperson, PAC

### 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Drag Show

Friday, February 10, 2017

Doors open at 7:00pm

Festivities begin at 8:00pm

Hansen Student Center, Illinois Wesleyan University

*The Drag Ball is an annual tradition and fundraiser for the Pride Alliance. Suggested donation \$5.00, with proceed benefitting Planned Parenthood of Bloomington-Normal*

*Consider this your 2-for-1 offer, and join us for both events.*



## Points of Pride

- Continued growth of the Rainbow floor located on the first floor of Pfeiffer Hall. The Rainbow floor has a lounge for students to use. This space/housing option helps to create yet another counter space on campus for members of the LGBTQ and TGNC (lesbian, bisexual, gay, queer and transgender and gender non-conforming) community.
- Dr. Matthew Damschroder spoke about middle sexualities.
- 2016 marked the third year that IWU, through the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI), hosted a Lavender graduation. The special program acknowledges the efforts and accomplishments of our Pride students as they prepare for life beyond Wesleyan.
- ODI continues to lead the charge of educating the IWU community about the LGBTQ & TGNC community by coordinating the Safe Zones series. Of note, 23 students participated in the Safe Zone Training during Mission Day.
- The Ames Library hosted the Legacy Project, the traveling exhibit that tells the story of the historical contributions of members of the LGBTQ & TGNC community to the U.S. and to the world.
- IWU was represented at the Chicago Campus Pride LGBTQ+ recruitment fair.
- The Division of Student Affairs received from NASPA, the organization for student

*As was noted by College Choice, who ranked IWU 38<sup>th</sup> among best LGBT Friendly campuses, "at IWU there are strong LGBTQ+ social and support organizations, such as the IWU Pride Alliance and Safe Zone, or the Pride Alumni Community which serves alumni, students, faculty, and staff. The IWU Pride Alliance is a student-led organization that was reactivated in the fall of 2003 by students of IWU who were interested in supporting the LGBT community and offering resources for their support and development." Dear alumni, that's YOU!*

affairs administrators in higher education, the Equity and Diversity Award at the 2016 NASPA Regional Meeting, in recognition for the services that are provided to our IWU LGBTQ & TGNC community.

- IWU ranks **38<sup>th</sup>** Nationally for LGBTQ-friendly campuses, as announced by the 2016 College Choice rankings.

Want to know more about LGBT life at IWU, check out <https://www.iwu.edu/lgbt/>

*(Special thanks to Brandon Common, Ph.D. Assistant Dean of Students for Campus Life for contributing to Points of Pride.)*

## Calendar

Friday, February 10, 8:00pm

Pride Alliance Drag Ball

Hansen Student Center

Illinois Wesleyan University

*Doors open at 7:00, \$5 suggested donation*

Saturday, February 11, 9:30am-3:30pm

Pride Summit

Illinois Wesleyan University

Sunday, April 2

Lavender Graduation

Illinois Wesleyan University

Thursday, April 6 6:30pm

PAC Connection Pizza Party

Campus Dug-Out

Illinois Wesleyan University

Please share comments, questions and ideas with PAC. Send your email to Adriane Powell, Director of Alumni Engagement, [apowell@iwu.edu](mailto:apowell@iwu.edu).